

REMARKS

Claims 86-99, 104-107, 109-123, 125-130 are pending in this application.

Claims 89-99, 110-123, 126 and 127 are allowed.

Claims 85-88, 93-96 and 125, are rejected.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). A modified Replacement Sheet is provided.

Claim language for claim 125 rejected under 35 USC §112. In accordance with Examiner Lockett during a Telephonic Interview on April 27, 2008 the incorrect grammatical syntax has been amended for clarity.

Claim 86 is rejected under 35 USC §102 (b) as being anticipated by Desmond. Claim 86 is rejected under 35 USC §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Desmond and Storey. Claim 86 pertains to an "alternate string anchoring point".

My prior Amendment addressed the objections to "string anchoring point" following a telephonic interview with Examiner Lockett. In a more recent telephonic interview with Supervisor Lincoln Donovan, Mr. Donovan indicated that in view of the Specification the term "string anchor" is sufficiently limited in interpretation that such that claim language need not be amended with the phrase "a recess in order to receive the string anchor". Accordingly, claim language has been re-amended.

Following a telephonic interview with Examiner Lockett on April 27, 2008 wherein the amended language that had been rejected in the current Office Action was discussed, a subsequent telephonic interview on April 27, 2008 ensued with Supervisor Lincoln Donovan addressing the rejected amendment language drafted in part with the assistance of the Supervisor.

Supervisor Donovan indicated that the Examiner's object had been discussed and made an effort with a third party at the USPTO to resolve in order to avoid an appeal; in the interim claim 86 with modified language was emailed to Mr. Donovan on April 27, 2008. Despite two follow-up phone calls to Mr. Donovan, no response has been given.

The current amendment contains the amended claim 86.

Marked Up Version Of The Pending Claims under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii):
86-99, 104-107, 109-123, 125-130 are as follows and in accordance with 37
C.E.R. 1.121(c), by which the Applicant submits the following marked up version,
wherein the markings are shown by brackets (for deleted matter) and/or
underlining (for added matter):

I claim:

Claims 1 – 85 (Cancelled)

86. (Currently Amended) A tuning apparatus for a stringed musical instrument comprising:
- a bridge element and
 - a tailpiece portion, the tailpiece portion comprising:
 - a[n] string securing anchoring portion [point] and
 - a[n] separate alternate string securing anchoring portion [point].
87. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 86, wherein the apparatus further comprises:
- a tremolo.
88. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 86, wherein the apparatus further comprises:
- a fulcrum tremolo.
89. (Previously Amended) A tuning apparatus for a stringed musical instrument comprising:
- a body and
 - a neck extending outwardly from said body,
 - a plurality of strings extending from the body to the neck,
 - a first critical point for each of said strings on the neck,

a second critical point for each of the strings on the body,
the apparatus further comprising:
a base comprising a forward end and a rearward end and upper portion and
a lower portion, comprising:
a bridge element connected to the base, the bridge element located
closer to the forward end forming a second critical point;
and
a first portion connected to the base and located in the rearward
end forming an alternate string anchoring point closer to
the lower portion than the second critical point, and
wherein the lower portion being attached to the upper portion and
the lower portion comprises:
a second portion that is transverse to the alternate string
anchoring point;
and a first string anchoring point.

90. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 89, wherein the apparatus
further comprises:
a fulcrum tremolo.

91. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 89, wherein the upper portion further comprises:

a string opening located between the first anchoring point and the second critical point, and

wherein the second portion further comprises:

a member with a string passageway connected to the second anchoring point having an axis, the axis being aligned to the string opening in the upper portion.

92. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of claim 91, wherein the apparatus further comprises:

a fulcrum tremolo.

93. (Previously Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a bridge element and

a tailpiece element connected to the bridge element, the tailpiece comprising:

a first portion having a rearward surface having a string anchoring point comprising a recess formed to receive a string anchor therein and

a second portion that is transverse to the first portion comprising:

a first end that connects the second portion to the first portion;

a second end, the second end having an alternate string anchoring point comprising a recess formed to receive a string anchor [and formed therein below the surface of the body;] and an elongated passageway that extends through the second portion from the first end to the second end, along a longitudinal axis of the second portion, forming at least one opening on each end.

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94. (Previously Amended) An apparatus comprising:
- a body;
 - a fulcrum tremolo;
 - a biasing element comprising a first end connected to the fulcrum tremolo and a second end connected to the body; and
 - at least one biasing element holder; and
 - a singular apparatus directly connected to the biasing element the singular apparatus comprising:
 - a thumbwheel portion operable to position the at least one biasing element holder,
- wherein rotation of the thumbwheel portion alters the bias applied by the biasing element.
95. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 94, wherein the singular apparatus further comprises:
- a U-shaped spring.

96. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for a stringed musical instrument comprising:
a body; and
a fulcrum tremolo,
the apparatus comprising:
a biasing element, the biasing element comprising at least one spring comprising a first end and a second end, the first end and the second end positioned opposite from each other on the at least one spring, the at least one spring positioned between the fulcrum tremolo and the body;
a spring holder connected to the biasing element;
a singular apparatus in direct contact with the at least one spring, the singular apparatus comprising a thumbwheel and
a threaded elongated portion, the threaded elongated portion threadedly connected to the singular apparatus and the threaded elongated portion threadedly connected to the singular apparatus,
wherein rotation of the thumbwheel alters the bias applied by the at least one spring.
97. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein the singular apparatus further comprises:
a secondary spring holder being threadedly engaged with the threaded elongated portion, and
wherein the fulcrum tremolo being positioned between the thumbwheel and the secondary spring holder.
98. (Original) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein the spring holder being positioned between the thumbwheel and the biasing element.

99. (Original) The apparatus of claim 98, further comprising a secondary spring holder connected to the biasing element,

wherein the thumbwheel further comprises a second elongated threaded portion, wherein the fulcrum tremolo further comprises a threaded opening, and wherein the thumbwheel is positioned between the secondary spring holder and the threaded opening.

100. Cancelled

101. Cancelled

102. Cancelled

103. Cancelled

104. Cancelled

105. Cancelled

106. Cancelled

107. Cancelled

108. Cancelled

109. Cancelled

110. (Previously Amended) A fulcrum tremolo with a forward end and a rearward end, the fulcrum tremolo comprising:

a base plate comprising a string hole,

a spring holder that is transverse to the base plate comprising:

a tailpiece,

the tailpiece comprising a string anchoring point; and

a string passageway having an axis wherein a longitudinal axis of
the string passageway aligns with the string hole;

an intonation module attached to the spring holder comprising:

a bridge element connected to the base, the bridge element located
closer to the forward end than the rearward end and

wherein the rearward portion forms an alternate tailpiece, the alternate
tailpiece comprising an alternate string anchoring point; and

wherein the alternate string anchoring point is located a distance from the
second critical point so that a string is rendered essentially inextensible
between the alternate string anchoring point and the second critical point.

111. (Original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 110, wherein the intonation
module further comprises:

a macro tuner.

112. (Previously Amended) A tremolo for a stringed musical instrument comprising: at least one bridge element; and
- a unitary component that is a single piece of bent material comprising:
 - a base plate being approximately planar, comprising:
 - a forward edge, a portion of the forward edge being a pivot and forming a pivot axis, and
 - an end opposite of the forward edge;
 - the opposite end of the forward edge of the base plate comprising:
 - a bend in the unitary component;
 - a transverse portion comprising:
 - at least one spring socket to receive an end of at least one biasing element; and
 - wherein the bend transitions the base plate to the transverse portion, and
 - wherein the bend and the transverse portion are approximately parallel to the pivot axis, and
 - wherein the unitary component is connected to the at least one bridge element.
113. (Previously Presented) The tremolo of claim 112, wherein the transverse portion further comprises:
- at least one string socket.

114. (Previously Presented) A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument comprising:

- a unitary component that is a single piece of bent material comprising:
 - a base plate being approximately planar, comprising:
 - a forward edge, a portion of the forward edge being a pivot and forming a pivot axis, and
 - an end opposite of the forward edge;
 - a first bend in the unitary component at an opposite end of the forward edge of the base plate;
 - and a transverse portion comprising:
 - at least one spring socket to receive an end of at least one biasing element,
 - wherein the first bend transitions the base plate to the transverse portion,
 - and
 - wherein the first bend and the transverse portion are approximately parallel to the pivot axis,
- at least one bridge element connected to the unitary component.

115. (Original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the first bend further comprises:

- a reinforcement.

116. (Previously Presented) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the transverse portion further comprises:
at least one string socket to receive an end of a string.
117. (Previously Presented) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 116, wherein the base plate further comprises at least one string hole, and wherein the transverse portion further comprises:
an upper portion;
a lower portion comprising at least one string passageway, each of the at least one string passageway is aligned with at least one of the least one string hole in the base plate; and
at least one second bend that transitions from the upper portion to the lower portion,
wherein the lower portion is approximately parallel to the pivot axis.
118. (Previously Presented) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 116, wherein the base plate further comprises:
at least one tier for displacing the at least one bridge element from the base plate.
119. (Original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the transverse portion further comprises:
the at least one string socket
120. (Original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the pivot further comprises: a pivot having a knife edge.
121. (Original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the pivot further comprises: a pivot having a beveled edge.

122. (Previously Presented) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the pivot further comprises:
a least a portion of a ball bearing surface.
123. (Original) The fulcrum tremolo of claim 114, wherein the pivot further comprises: at least a portion of a ball bearing surface; and
at least a portion of a shaft.
124. Cancelled
125. (Currently Amended) A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument comprising:
at least one bridge element; and
a unitary component that is a single piece of bent plate material having a substantial uniform thickness comprising [having a substantial uniform thickness]:
a base plate being approximately planar, comprising:
a pivot forming a pivot axis;
at least one bend in the base plate;
at least one additional portion formed to receive at least a portion of at least one bearing assembly,
wherein the at least one bend and the at least one additional portion have an axis approximately parallel to the pivot axis, and
wherein the unitary component is connected to the at least one bridge element.

126. (Previously Presented) A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument

comprising:

- at least one bridge element; and

- a base plate being approximately planar, comprising:

 - a forward edge, and;

 - at least one additional portion formed to receive at least a portion of at least one bearing assembly;

- the at least one bearing assembly, comprising:

 - at least a portion of a shaft, at least one housing,

 - at least a portion of a ball bearing surface, and at least one annular flange

wherein the at least one annular flange spaces the at least a portion of at least one bearing assembly away from the base plate.

127. (Previously Presented) A bridge-tailpiece for a stringed musical instrument comprising:

- a fulcrum tremolo, the fulcrum tremolo further comprising:

- an element to receive at least one musical instrument string, the element comprising:

 - a first string anchoring point for each string; and

 - an alternate string anchoring point for each string;

and

- an intonation module with a forward portion and a rearward portion:

 - the intonation module comprising:

 - a base;

- a bridge element connected to the base, the bridge element located closer to the forward end forming a second critical point; and

wherein the rearward portion forms a string anchoring point closer to the

base than the second critical point; and
wherein the string anchoring point is located a critical distance from the second critical point operable to render a string as approximately inextensible between the anchoring point and the second critical point;

and

a biasing element comprising a first end connected to the fulcrum tremolo and a second end connected to the body; and

at least one biasing element holder; and

a singular apparatus connected to the fulcrum tremolo, the singular apparatus comprising:

a thumbwheel portion operable to position the at least one biasing element holder,

wherein rotation of the thumbwheel portion adjusts the equilibrium point between the tension of the strings and the tension of the biasing element to adjust initial position;

and

an unitary component that is a single piece of bent material comprising:

a base plate being approximately planar, comprising:

a forward edge, a portion of the forward edge being a pivot and forming a pivot axis, and

an end opposite of the forward edge;

the opposite end of the forward edge of the base plate comprising:

a first bend in the unitary component;

and a transverse portion comprising:

at least one spring socket to receive an end of at least one biasing element,

wherein the first bend transitions the base plate to the transverse portion,

and

wherein the first bend and the transverse portion are approximately parallel to the pivot axis:

the unitary component further comprising:

at least one additional portion formed to receive at least a portion of at least one bearing assembly,

wherein the at least one bend and the at least one additional portion have

an axis approximately parallel to the pivot axis, and

wherein the unitary component is connected to the at least one bridge element.

128. (Previously Amended) A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument comprising a body and a neck, a plurality of strings extending from the body to the neck, a nut for supporting the strings on the neck forming a first critical point for each string wherein the fulcrum tremolo comprises a macro tuner:

the macro tuner having a forward end closer the nut and a rearward end further the nut, the macro tuner comprising:

a base;

a bridge element connected to the base located closer the forward end forming a second critical point;

an elongated portion slideably connected to the base;

a string holder element, the string holder further comprises a tailpiece, and an adjustment screw connected to the base operable to position the elongated portion;

the elongated member, the adjustment screw and the string holder located on the opposite side of the second critical point from the first critical point, wherein threading the adjustment screw is operable to position the string holder element to change tension of strings.

129. (Previously Amended) The macro tuner of claim 128, wherein the base further comprises a restricted portion,

[the string holder further comprises a string anchor, and]
the elongated member further comprises:

a clamping portion closer to the second critical point; [and]
a string passageway [connecting the string anchor to the clamping
portion]; and

an annular flange [positioned between the clamping portion and
the string anchor], and

wherein the annular flange is in varying contact with the restricted portion;

wherein threading the adjustment screw to tension a string is operable to clamp
the string between the second critical point and the tailpiece.

130 (Previously Amended) A macro tuner having a front end and a rearward end, the macro tuner comprising:

- a bridge element located closer the front end forming an intonation point;
- an elongated member slideably connected to the macro tuner, the elongated member located on the opposite side of the bridge element from the front end,
- an adjustment screw connected to the macro tuner operable to position the elongated member; the adjustment screw located on the opposite side of the bridge element from the front end,
- a string holder element connected to the elongated member located on the opposite side of the bridge element from the front end, the string holder element comprising a tailpiece comprising a string anchoring point,
- wherein threading the adjustment screw is operable to position the string holder element to tension a string, and
- wherein the macro tuner is located on an apparatus consisting of a fulcrum tremolo.

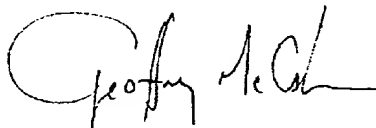
REQUEST FOR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance for claims 86-99, 104-107, 109-123, 125-130 which are pending in this application..

CONCLUSION

All pending claims, 86-99, 104-107, 109-123, 125-130, are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the subject application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned applicant before issuing a subsequent Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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